

Sub-Element 1.d—Communications Equipment

What the Policy Says	<p>Intent This sub-element derives from NUREG-0654, which provides that Offsite Response Organizations (ORO) should establish reliable primary and backup communication systems to ensure communications with key emergency personnel at locations such as the following: appropriate contiguous governments within the emergency planning zone (EPZ), Federal emergency response organizations, the licensee and its facilities, emergency operations centers (EOC), and field teams.</p> <p>Criterion 1.d.1: At least two communication systems are available, at least one operates properly, and communication links are established and maintained with appropriate locations. Communications capabilities are managed in support of emergency operations. (NUREG-0654, F.1, 2).</p> <p>Minimum Frequency Criterion 1.d.1 is to be evaluated every exercise.</p> <p>Extent of Play OROs will demonstrate that a primary and at least one backup system are fully functional at the beginning of an exercise. If a communications system or systems are not functional, but exercise performance is not affected, no exercise issue will be assessed. Communications equipment and procedures for facilities and field units should be used as needed for the transmission and receipt of exercise messages. All facilities and field teams should have the capability to access at least one communication system that is independent of the commercial telephone system. Responsible OROs should demonstrate the capability to manage the communication systems and ensure that all message traffic is handled without delays that might disrupt the conduct of emergency operations. OROs should ensure that a coordinated communication link for fixed and mobile medical support facilities exists. The specific communications capabilities of OROs should be commensurate with that specified in the response plan and/or procedures. Exercise scenarios could require the failure of a communications system and the use of an alternate system, as negotiated in the Extent of Play agreement.</p> <p>All activities associated with the management of communications capabilities must be demonstrated based on the ORO's plans and procedures and completed as they would be in an actual emergency, unless otherwise noted above or in the Extent of Play agreement.</p>
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Preparing to Evaluate This Criterion	<p>Before the exercise, determine, according to the ORO's plan/procedures and the Extent of Play agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What types of communications system(s) are available?<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Primary?➤ Alternate or backup?➤ Dedicated Line?• What types of communications system(s) are to be demonstrated?• Is a communications check with other jurisdictions, field teams and/or other support organizations specified?
During the Exercise	<p>During the exercise, in addition to evaluating activities related to the items listed above, be sure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note any communications equipment failures. If there were failures, document them in your narrative. Did any communications failures affect exercise performance? If so, describe the issue in your write-up.• Identify the communication system(s) available independent of commercial telephone.• Ensure that the primary and at least one backup communication system are fully functional at the commencement of the exercise.• Observe whether a communications check with other jurisdictions, field teams, and/or other support organizations was performed.